

Kentucky Higher Education
Assistance Authority
and
The Student Loan Peoplesm
P.O. Box 798
Frankfort, KY 40602-0798
Tel: 800.928.8926
www.kheaa.com
publications@kheaa.com

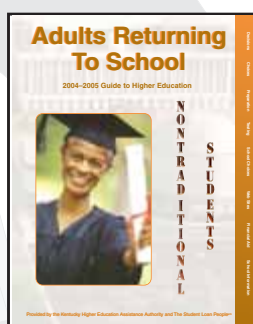


COUNSELOR CONNECTION

VOLUME XIV, No. 3, DECEMBER 2004

Adults Returning to School

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) and The Student Loan Peoplesm are proud to announce the 2004–2005 *Adults Returning to School* (ARTS) will be arriving soon.



This valuable resource contains much of the same information as *Getting In*, as well as additional material that's geared to the nontraditional student.

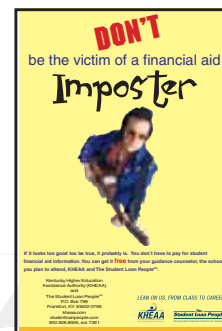
A copy of ARTS will be included with a future *Counselor Connection*.



Included with this issue is the ARTS poster. Please display this so parents and other nontraditional students who visit your school will be encouraged to request information as to how to return to school and get their college degree.

Remind Your Students About Scams— Display the Scam Poster

Included with the last *Counselor Connection* was a scam poster. Be sure to display this in a prominent place to remind students and their families that they do not have to pay for financial aid information. It can be obtained free from KHEAA.



If a student or parent has been charged for KHEAA information, advise them to contact the Better Business Bureau and the Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601, toll free 888.432.9257.

If you'd like additional copies, please contact the publications area at the address or phone number at the top of the page.

Correction

This year's edition of *Getting Ready* shows incorrect registration deadlines for the ACT test on page 11. The correct test dates and their registration deadlines are as follows. For the **February 12, 2005** test, the registration deadline is **January 7**. For the **April 9, 2005** test, the registration deadline is **March 4, 2005**. For the **June 11** test, **May 6** is the registration deadline.

Student Aid Report

Making Your List and Checking It Twice

by Becky Gilpatrick, KEES Program Coordinator

Doesn't it seem like time is passing by faster and faster? Before you know it summer will be upon us, and we'll be reporting grades for the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) again. While I have this chance, I would like to mention a few things you can do now to make the reporting process flow smoothly in 2005.



Verify each student's Social Security number and birth date.

The Social Security number (SSN) and birth date are the two main identifiers for student records. When your student records arrive at KHEAA each summer, these two pieces of information tell our database where to place the new information so it can be joined to the records submitted for the student in years past. If your student's SSNs have not been checked since they initially entered your school district years ago, you may want to request they bring in proof such as their Social Security card.



Double-check mailing addresses for your students.

KHEAA uses the addresses you report to send valuable information regarding KEES and other types of financial aid. Roughly 15 percent of the addresses we receive from the yearly updates are incorrect and result in returned mail. Out of a quarter of a million records received each year statewide, you can start to get a picture of how much returned mail KHEAA gets. By checking each student's mailing address for accuracy, you are not only helping the state save postage costs but also helping ensure your students receive the most up-to-date information on ways to make college more affordable.



Get the students involved in the verification process.

While you can verify student information on your school's database, encourage your students to check their KEES accounts at www.kheaa.com. The students will need their SSN and birth date to sign-on to the website and retrieve their KEES information.



Update your school's database when corrections need to be made.

As you know, throughout each school year students will come to you requesting corrections on their KEES accounts. When making online corrections to the KEES database, please update your school's database as well. This will help prevent the same errors from being reported the next time.

Last year I mentioned that KHEAA had identified over 22,000 student accounts on the KEES database that existed as duplications due to either an incorrect SSN or date of birth. While our staff has worked diligently to reduce the number of accounts affected, this past summer's grade reporting created 4,500 more duplications on the database. By doing a little verification now, you can help immensely in making sure as few as possible additional duplications occur when grades are reported in 2005. If you have suggestions for improvements or questions related to the KEES program, feel free to contact me at rgilpatrick@kheaa.com or 800.928.8926, extension 7394.

Robert C. Byrd Scholarship

Applications are now available for the 2005–2006 academic year at www.kheaa.com. The application is under the "Forms" heading. Applications must be postmarked by February 15, 2005, for high school students and June 30, 2005, for GED recipients. Applications must be submitted by high school counselors or adult education providers. Applications are not accepted from individual students.

To apply for the scholarship, students must:

- Be a legal resident of Kentucky and a U.S. citizen.
- Have applied for been accepted for enrollment at a college or university with the U.S.
- Be recommended by a school official (high school student) or adult education provider (GED recipient).
- Graduate from a secondary school in the spring of 2005 with a seven-semester GPA of at least 3.5 and a 23 or higher on the ACT if a high school student.
- Have received a GED with a composite test score of 2700 or higher If a GED recipient.

School officials should refer to the scholarship application to determine the number of applicants each school can submit, which is determined by school enrollment. School officials and adult education providers should screen applications and submit the most qualified students.

The scholarship amount is \$1,500 per year for four years and can only be used for undergraduate work. For more information, visit www.kheaa.com or contact David Lawhorn at 800.928.8926, extension 7383 or dlawhorn@kheaa.com.

Student Aid Report

KHEAA GRANTS

By Randy Petty

It's time for seniors to start thinking about money for college. KHEAA administers two need-based grant programs for college-bound students: the College Access Program (CAP) Grant and the Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG) program.

CAP Grants help Kentucky's financially needy undergraduate students attend one of Kentucky's public or private colleges. Students may enroll either part-time or full-time in an eligible program of study. The maximum CAP award for the 2004–2005 academic year is \$1,400.

KTG awards provide need-based grants to qualified Kentucky residents to attend one of the state's independent colleges. Students must be full-time undergraduates enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program. Eligible schools must be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (or an equivalent regional accrediting association) and cannot be comprised solely of religious instruction. For the 2004–2005 academic year, KTG awards range from \$200 to \$2,600.

To apply for either grant, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This is the same form used to determine eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant. Students can apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or can get a paper FAFSA from the high school counselor office or college financial aid office.

About 80 percent of FAFSAs completed for the 2003–2004 academic year were filed online. Filing online means students and parents make fewer errors and receive quicker responses.

Beginning in January, the FAFSA may be completed and submitted for the 2005–2006 academic year. Both grant programs are on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to applications received by March 15. Funds for both programs can be exhausted quickly, so encouraging seniors to complete and submit their FAFSA before graduation is important.

KHEAA's website, www.kheaa.com, provides a link to the FAFSA form and also provides a list of schools that are eligible to participate in the state grant programs.

It's FAFSA Time!



Encourage your students to complete the FAFSA as soon after the first of the year as possible. Students seeking college aid for the 2005–2006 school year should file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible.

The FAFSA is used to apply for most need-based state, federal and institutional aid programs, including those administered by KHEAA. Some student aid funds are limited, and those who apply early have the best chance to receive all of the aid for which they may qualify.

Students who file the FAFSA online will get their results 7 to 14 days faster than those who file by mail. Students can also file a paper FAFSA, available from high school guidance offices and college financial aid offices.

KHEAA and The Student Loan People wish you the very happiest of holidays. We will be

closed the following dates:

December 24 and 27 for Christmas and December 31 and January 3 for New Year's.



College Goal Sunday . . . Coming in February

Please promote the following information to your seniors and their parents.

The Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, in cooperation with the Lumina Foundation, KHEAA and The Student Loan Peoplesm, sponsors College Goal Sunday to help students and parents fill out the FAFSA. This event will be held **February 27**.



Financial aid professionals will be available at 19 sites in 18 Kentucky communities to walk students and their parents through the 2005–2006 FAFSA. Families attending College Goal Sunday should bring all the information needed for filling out their tax forms. Financial aid professionals will help them use that information to complete the FAFSA.

Following are the sites for College Goal Sunday. Students and parents who plan to attend should arrive by 2 p.m. For more information, call toll free 888.452.7322.

City	State	City	State
Ashland	Ashland Community College J.B. Sowards Theatre	Lexington	Lexington Community College 230 Oswald Building
Bowling Green	Western Kentucky University Grisee Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium	Louisville	Male High School Auditorium and Gheens Center 4425 Preston Highway
Campbellsville	Campbellsville University Student Union Building Little Auditorium	Louisville	St. Stephens Church 1008 South 15th Street
Crestview Hills	Thomas More College Seiler Commons Administration Building	Madisonville	Madisonville Technical College 750 North Laffoon Street
Elizabethtown	Elizabethtown Community and Technical College Central Regional Postsecondary Education Center, Room 505	Morehead	Morehead State University Button Drill Building Button Drill Room
Frankfort	KHEAA Paul P. Borden Conference Room	Owensboro	Kentucky Wesleyan College Rogers Hall Winchester Center
Hazard	Hazard Community and Technical College Expo Center, Room 123 B	Paducah	West Kentucky Community and Technical College Crounse Hall, Room 101
Hopkinsville	Hopkinsville Community College Auditorium Gallery	Prestonsburg	Big Sandy Community and Technical College Johnson Building, Room 102
		Richmond	Eastern Kentucky University
		Somerset	Somerset Community College 808 Monticello Street